

Glossary

Archaeology: The scientific study of the physical evidence of past human societies recovered through excavation.

Archaeological Site: A location that contains material evidence of past human activities for which a boundary can be established.

Certified Local Government (CLG): Refers to a local government, certified or approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which has an appointed commission to oversee the survey and inventory of historic resources, to review areas for historically significant structures, and to develop and maintain community planning and education programs.

Champion Trees: A Champion Tree is defined as the largest specimen of its species. A champion tree may be a National Champion, a State Champion or both.

Corridor Assessment Plan: A Corridor Assessment Plan is a planning document that provides inventory and assessment of important resources and intrinsic qualities associated with an individual heritage corridor. The Corridor Assessment plan also provides management strategies designed to address development in proximity to the corridor, the interpretation and promotion of the corridor and the preservation and protection of the corridor in both the short-term and long-term.

Context Analysis Reports: A Context Analysis Report follows standard procedures for documenting, mapping, and analyzing historic landscapes and their associated view sheds based on techniques used by National Park Service. A Context Analysis report also may provide guidance for the stewardship, preservation, and mitigation of effects on significant landscapes.

Contributing Structure: A building or structure in historic district that generally has historic, architectural, cultural, or archeological significance.

Cultural Landscape: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) defines cultural landscapes as “the combined works of nature and of man and are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal”. (*UNESCO/ICOMOS Expert Group, World Heritage Convention Operation Guidelines, February 1995*). The National Park Service (NPS) defines a cultural landscape as “a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.”

Cultural Resource Surveys: Inventories of sites, buildings, structures, or objects deemed to have local, regional, national, or international cultural significance. The purpose of such surveys is to have a record of what is significant in order to protect such resources from development or encroachment or to document the current appearance or condition for the record. Often such surveys lead to the nomination of properties to historic registers.

Curb-cuts: Openings within curb and gutter sections to allow access to intersecting roads, walkways, storm water management facilities, driveways, etc.

Demolition by neglect: Process of allowing a building to deteriorate to the point where demolition is necessary to protect public health and safety.

Easement (preservation or conservation): Partial interest in property that can be transferred to a nonprofit organization or governmental entity by gift or sale to ensure the protection of a historic resource and/or land area in perpetuity.

Economic hardship: Extreme economic impact on individual property owner resulting from the application of a historic preservation law.

Eligible property: Property that meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places but is not formally listed.

Enabling law: A law enacted by a state setting forth the legal parameters by which local governments may operate. The source of authority for enacting local preservation ordinances.

Guidelines: Interpretative standards or criteria that are generally advisory in form.

Historic Districts: An area that generally includes within its boundaries a significant concentration of properties linked by architectural style, historical development, or a past event. Used only when referring to a neighborhood or region designated by national, state, or local officials as a historic district

Heritage Trees: A heritage tree is defined as one that has been individually recognized by the local governing body for its association with a historic event, person, structure or landscape. The historic significance may be at the local, state, regional or national level.

Historic Context (as defined for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places): Information about historic trends and properties grouped by an important theme in the prehistory or history of a community, state, or the nation during a particular period of time. Historic contexts are organized by theme, place, and time, and link properties to important historic trends.

Historic Integrity (per National Register criteria): The authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's period of significance. These characteristics include integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Historic Landmarks: Used only when referring to a site designated by national, state, or local officials as a historic landmark. The term is primarily used to refer to National Historic Landmarks.

Historic Property: Building, site, district, object, or structure evaluated as historically significant inclusive of their historic setting.

Historic Preservation Feasibility Studies: Refers to studies which examine all facets of a proposed preservation effort to determine if the structure or site's significance is worth the efforts required to save it, as well as whether artisans, materials, funds, community support are sufficient for the project.

Historic Structure Reports (HSR): A comprehensive reference documents providing long term preservation guidance for a historic property. Survey work involves both documentary research and in depth on-site inspection. Reports typically include narratives on the property's history and construction;

descriptions and photographs showing its original appearance and current conditions; original paint colors; materials conservation analysis; masonry cleaning and mortar specifications for restoration work. The purpose of an HSR is usually to provide a record of a building's condition before beginning restoration or renovation of the building.

Impact Studies: Studies done to determine the impact that a new plan would have on an area, such as a study to determine the effect building a new by-pass would have on a historic downtown shopping district.

Infill: The use of vacant land and property within a built-up area for further construction or development, especially as part of a neighborhood preservation or limited growth program.

Integrity: The authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period.

Inventory: A list of historic properties determined to meet specified criteria of significance.

Land trust: A nonprofit organization engaged in the voluntary protection of land for the purpose of providing long-term stewardship of important resources, whether historical, archeological, or environmental, through the acquisition of full or partial interests in property.

Land use: General term used to describe how land is or may be utilized or developed, whether for industrial, commercial, residential or agricultural purposes, or as open space.

Main Street Program: Programs to revitalize central business districts of small cities and towns. This term refers most commonly, but not exclusively, to efforts underwritten by the National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Massing: A term used to define the over all volume or size of a building.

National Champions: A National Champion is the largest tree specimen of its species in the nation. Only native and naturalized trees are eligible. In most states, and nationally, trees are scored by a point system based on three measurements, which include the girth, height and crown spread of the tree. These three measurements are added together to determine the Total Points. The Champion is the tree with the highest overall score. Girth: The girth is calculated as one point per inch of trunk circumference, measured at a height of 4.5 feet above the base of the trunk. Height: The height is measured as one point per foot of height from the base of the trunk to the topmost twig. Crown Spread: The crown spread is one quarter the average crown spread in feet, measured along the widest and narrowest axes of the crown.

National Register of Big Trees: The National Register of Big Trees maintains a list of America's biggest trees. Published every year, this list is compiled from Big Tree Lists maintained by individual states and from trees nominated by private citizens and professional foresters. National Champions are generally selected through nomination from the National Register.

National Register Criteria: The established criteria for evaluating the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register of Historic Places: The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. These contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation.

Outbuildings: All nonresidential structures on a site which may include barns, sheds, smokehouses, icehouses, etc.

Phase I Survey: An archaeological survey conducted to locate and identify all archaeological sites within a survey area, estimate size and boundaries of identified sites, evaluate potential site significance and recommend treatment of identified sites.

Prehistory: The time period before the advent of the written record. In North America, the prehistoric period terminates with European contact and subsequent settlement of the continent.

Preservation: The act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property.

Pre-application Meeting: A non-binding meeting between applicants and relevant County agencies held prior to the filing of legislative land development applications.

Pre-submission Meeting: A binding meeting between applicants and relevant County agencies held prior to the filing of administrative land development applications.

Public-Private Partnership: Joint ventures between community members and government or business or between corporations and government.

Reconstruction: Reconstruction is a type of new construction that reproduces the exact form and detail of a vanished building, structure or object, or a part thereof, as it appeared at a specific period of time.

Regulations: Rules promulgated by an administrative agency that interpret and implement statutory requirements.

Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation of a building or property returns it to a state of utility by means of repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those sections or features that are significant to its historical, architectural and cultural values.

Restoration: Restoration of a building recovers the authentic form and details of the building and its landscape as it appeared in a particular period in time. This may involve the careful removal of later work or the replacement of missing earlier work.

Revolving fund: Fund established by a public or nonprofit organization to purchase land or buildings or make grants or loans to facilitate the preservation of historic resources.

Scale: A term used to define the proportions of a building in relation to its surroundings.

Section 106: Provision in National Historic Preservation Act that requires federal agencies to consider effects of proposed undertakings on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

State Champions: A State Champion is the largest tree specimen of an individual species in a particular state. All 50 states maintain their own Big Tree Lists, and much of the National Register is compiled from these individual state big tree inventories.

Specimen Trees: A specimen tree is defined as one that has been individually recognized by the local governing body for its special status. A tree may receive this designation by virtue of its outstanding size or quality of the particular species, especially if it represents a locally significant native species. Trees associated with the character of a community, trees that are relatively rare in an area, whether native or

not, may also be awarded this status. The category also includes other locally significant trees that are significant on account of their great age or are especially renowned for their aesthetic or community value. The function of a tree in a landscape may be sufficient to justify special status such as a landmark pair of trees that frame an entrance and/or serve as natural gateways to historic sites, towns or villages.

Viewshed: A viewshed is an area of land, water, and other environmental elements that is visible from a fixed vantage point. In planning viewsheds tend to be areas of particular scenic or historic value that are deemed worthy of preservation against development or other change.

Virginia Big Tree Program: The Virginia Big Tree Program maintains a list of State Champions in Virginia.